

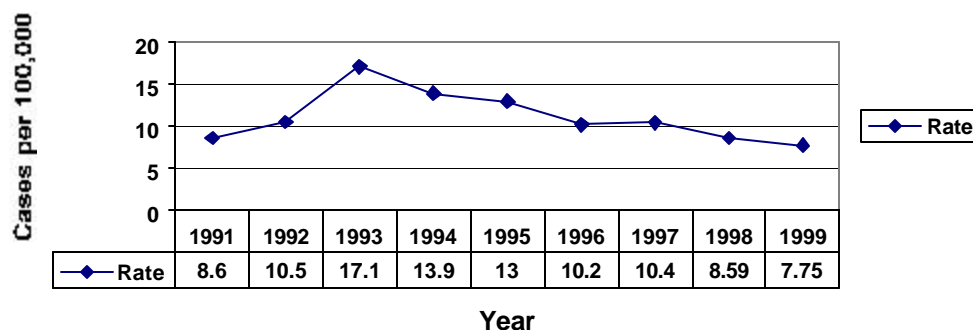
SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a contagious sexually transmitted disease caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum*. The disease, which may be acute or chronic, is characterized clinically by a primary lesion (hard chancre), a secondary eruption involving skin and mucous membranes, long periods of latency, and late lesions of skin, bone, viscera, the central nervous system, and the cardiovascular system. Fetal infection occurs with high frequency in untreated early infections of pregnant women. Transmission occurs by direct contact with infectious exudates during sexual contact. Transmission may occur through blood transfusion if the donor is in the early stages of the disease. Fetal infection occurs through placental transfer or at delivery.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Laboratory confirmation of *T.pallidum* by darkfield microscopy, by reactive serology, or by clinical manifestations of acquired infection.

**Syphilis Incidence, Kentucky
1991-1999**

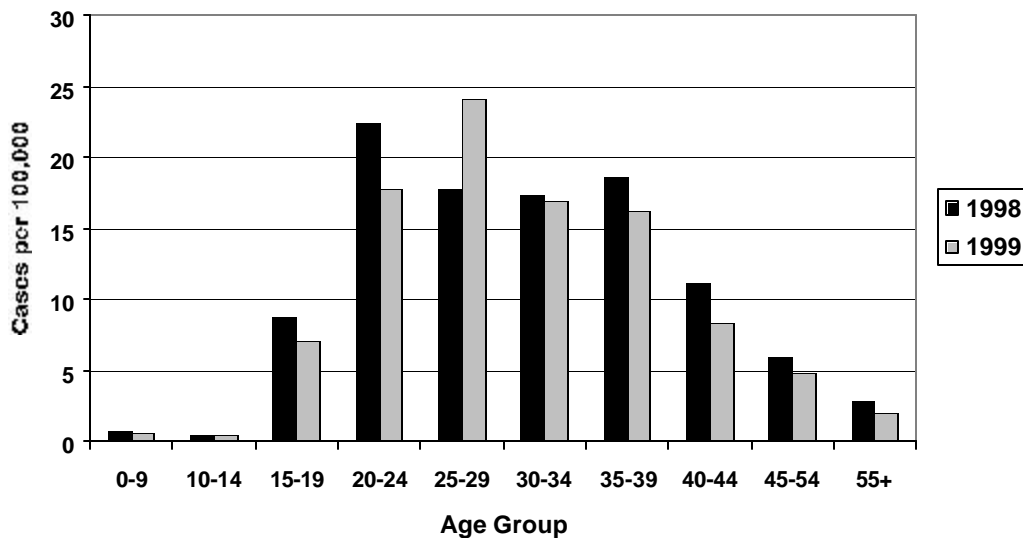


	1998	1999
Number of Cases	338	305
Rate per 100,000	8.6	7.8
Rate by Gender		
Female	8.0	7.5
Male	9.2	8.0

Syphilis is defined by distinct stages. Primary, secondary and early latent syphilis are considered early syphilis, while late latent and late syphilis are defined as syphilis of greater than one year's duration. Congenital syphilis is acquired in utero.

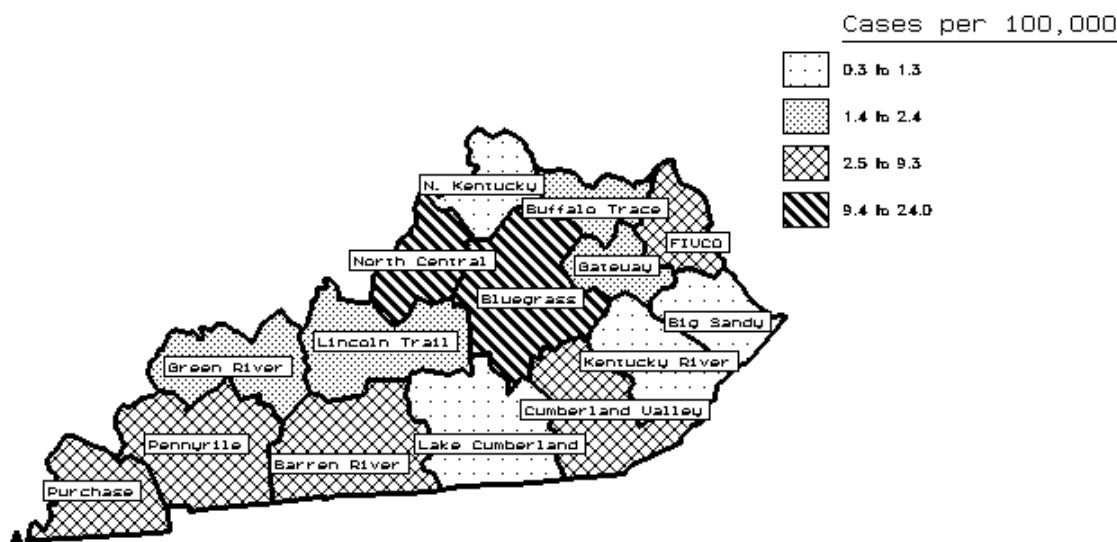
Syphilis Cases by Stage, Kentucky 1992-1999								
Cases	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Primary	74	132	57	65	55	44	41	34
Secondary	108	199	150	120	99	91	65	67
Early Latent	97	156	179	166	126	122	101	81
Total Early	279	487	386	351	280	257	207	182
Late Latent/late	107	153	134	141	113	141	127	120
Congenital	8	9	13	8	2	6	4	3
Total Cases	394	649	533	500	395	404	338	305

**Syphilis, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky
1998-1999**



The highest incidence of reported syphilis occurred in the 20-24 age group (22.5 cases per 100,000) in 1998 and in the 25-29 age group (24.2 cases per 100,000) in 1999.

Syphilis by District, Kentucky Average Annual Incidence 1998-1999



The North Central District reported the highest rate in both years; 1998- 26.3 cases per 100,000 and 1999- 21.6 cases per 100,000. The Bluegrass District followed with 9.0 cases per 100,000 in 1998 and 9.7 cases per 100,000 in 1999.

Jefferson County, in the North Central District, has the largest urban population in the state. In 1998 Jefferson County reported 31.5 cases per 100,000 and in 1999 the rate was 26.2 cases per 100,000.

Fayette County, the second largest urban area in the state, is in the Bluegrass District. Fayette County reported 21.1 cases per 100,000 in 1998 and 22.3 cases in 1999.